year 1992-93, Settlement Commission (Income-tax) purchased only one table and four chairs in replacement of the condemned furniture after obtaining necessary relaxation of the restrictions imposed in this regard. One table and three chairs were provided at the residence of the former Chairperson of the Commission as admissible under extent Government instructions on the subject to enable her to perform official duties from there.

(d) No additional item of furniture has been accepted from any supplier.

Negotiations with Asian Development Bank

2595. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJANIRANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had negotiations with the Asian Development Bank for securing loan for the current year 1993-94;

(b) if so, with what success, indicating the extent and terms of the aid agreed upon; and

(c) whether the terms agreed upon are likely to adversely affect the performance of public sector banks; if so, in what manner and to what extent?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The Asian Development Bank and agreed to provide loans from its Ordinary Capital Resources to the extent of about US $ One billion during the calendar year 1993. These loans normally carry a grace period of 5 years, repayment in 25 years and the variable lending rate of interest which is currently 6.64% per annum.

(c) No, Sir.

Functioning of CEGAT

2596. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that recently the Supreme Court of India highlighted the mal-functioning of the Customs, Excise and Gold Control Appellate Tribunal functioning in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) In pursuance of a Supreme Court judgement dated 14-5-93, based on articles appearing in the Excise Law Times about the functioning of CEGAT, the Government have constituted a high level Team to go into the alegations and suggest measures to improve the functioning of the Tribunal. Meanwhile, steps have been initiated to fill in the vacant posts, provide supporting facilities and to tone up the working of the Tribunal.

Steps to check tax evasion

2597. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any system to check whether the Central Excise and Sales Tax have been opened on those goods transported by the Railways;

(b) if not, what is the revenue loss per year on this account; and

(c) what steps have been contemplated to check the tax evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Rule 52A of the Central Rules 1944, stipulates that the orginal copy of Central Excise Gate Pass has to accompany the consignment to its destination. In the case of movement of goods by Railways, the Railway Administration maintains records of transport including Railway receipts, which are verified and correlated with the assessee records to ensure duty paid character of the goods transported.

Regarding Sale Tax, the Central Sales Tax Act 1956 is enacted by Parliament but the administration of the Act is vested by law in the State Governments who levies, assess, collect and retain the entire proceeds thereof. Therefore, it is for the State Governments to introduce necessary system to check whether Sales Tax has been paid on the goods transported by Railways.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above no comments can be offered.

Financial Sector Reforms

2598. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial sector reforms package has been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be announced?

THE MINITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The Government had constituted the Committee on the Financial System under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Narasimham to examine all aspects relating to the structure, organisation, functions and procedures of the financial system. The Committee submitted its report on 20th November, 1991. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee several policy initiatives have been taken. These include reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SIR) and Cash Reserve Ration (CRR), simplification of interest rate structure, prescribing of norms in respect of capital adequacy, income recognition and provisioning requirements, revision of balance sheet and profit and loss formats for ensuring greater transparency, revision of guidelines for branch licensing, conversion of Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) into a Company, issue of guidelines on entry of new private sector banks, measures aimed at liberalisation of the capital market, vesting of SEBI with statutory powers, equal treatment of various Mutual Funds in the area of tax concessions, etc. Government have decided to implement the recommendations of the Committee in a phased manner.

Import of edible oil from USA

@2599. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are importing huge quantities of edible oil from United States of America;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Empowered Committed on Oil Seeds Policy (ECOP) opposed import of edible oil;

(c) if so, what are the compelling reasons for such imports; and

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@Previously unstarred question 1761, transferred from 9th August, 1993.